

ACTS 15; October 16; The Council At Jerusalem

ANALYSIS:

1. What did a certain sect in the Jerusalem church say the Gentiles must do to be saved? _____
2. Which apostle(s) testified of how God had visited the Gentiles with salvation? _____
3. Who summarized God visiting the Gentiles with salvation, and which O. T. prophet did he quote? _____
4. What were the Gentile believers instructed to abstain from?

5. When Barnabas determined to take Mark with him and Paul to revisit the churches, why did Paul object, and whom did Paul chose to go with?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

We have been taught to read the O. T. with the understanding which the N. T. reveals. The leader of the Jerusalem church, James, in Acts 15:13-17, interpreted the prophecy of Amos 9:11-12 as being fulfilled by the conversion of the Gentiles which Peter and Paul and Barnabas had reported. Without this interpretation, one might think God through Amos was promising to rebuild an earthly physical temple. Without James' interpretation, would we have known "the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen" (Amos 9:12), meant "that the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord"? The conversion of Gentiles, by the preaching of the gospel, was an astonishing event. It began with Peter going to the house of Cornelius, and quickly spread among all Gentile peoples. Thank you, Lord, for reaching us!

What a marvelous blending of many members into one body is this Church of Greenville. Our backgrounds are very different in so many ways. The indwelling Spirit unites us so that together we worship the Lord Jesus Christ and seek the good of one another. Let us thank the Lord for every regenerated soul the Lord adds, and seek to serve one another so that we grow "unto an holy temple in the lord" (Eph 2:21).

HELP:

1. Some Pharisees were teaching that the Gentiles must be circumcised and keep the law of Moses to be saved (v 5).
2. Peter (v 7), Paul & Barnabas (v 12).
3. James (vs 13-15). James quoted Amos 9:11-12 (vs 16-17).
4. Pollutions of idols, fornication, things strangled, blood (vs 20, 29).
5. Paul rejected Mark because he had left them at Pamphylia on a previous trip. Paul chose Silas (vs 38-40).